

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below.

5 Claims 1-34: Cancelled

35. (Currently Amended) A method for downloading firmware to at least one of a plurality of storage devices in a computing system having at least one client connected to a server, the method comprising:

10 receiving, at a client, from the server, a first list of storage devices connected to ~~the~~ a storage system;

 receiving, from a user, a second list of storage devices selected from the first list of storage devices;

15 validating at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices;

 transferring a firmware file to at least one agent on the server; and

 instructing the at least one agent on the server to download the firmware to the at least one storage device.

20 36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein receiving, from a user, a second list of storage devices selected from the first list of storage devices comprises:

 querying the user for a password;

 receiving, in response to the query, a password from the user; and

25 comparing the password to a password stored in a header of the firmware file to validate the user.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein receiving, from a user, a second list of storage devices selected from the first list of storage devices comprises displaying the first list of storage devices to the

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user in a user interface that enables the user to select at least one storage device from the first list of storage devices.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein
5 validating at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices comprises comparing an inquiry string from the firmware file with an inquiry string from a firmware file resident on a storage device on the second list of storage devices.

10 39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein validating at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices comprises determining whether the at least one storage device is capable of implementing a firmware update.

15 40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein validating at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices comprises storing a device identifier associated with a validated device in a data field in the firmware file.

20 41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising removing from the second list of storage devices a storage device that cannot be validated.

25 42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising removing from the second list of storage devices a storage device that cannot be updated.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein
30 transferring a firmware file to at least one agent on the server comprises transferring a firmware file that includes instructions for downloading the firmware file from the agent to the storage device.

44. (Previously presented) A method for downloading firmware to at least one of a plurality of storage devices in a computing system having at least one client connected to a server, the method comprising:
- 5 receiving at a server, a request from a client to update firmware on one or more storage devices in the computer system;
- transmitting from the server to the client a first list of storage devices visible to the server;
- receiving from the client a second list of storage devices including at least one storage device from the first list of storage devices, a firmware file, and an instruction to download the firmware file to at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices; and
- 10 initiating a process to download the firmware file to the at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices.
- 15
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising:
- instantiating an agent on the server; and
- registering the agent with an agent manager.
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46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the agent manager periodically pings the agent instantiated on the server, and unregisters the agent if the agent is unavailable.
47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein receiving,
- 25 from a client, a request to update firmware on one or more storage devices in the computer system comprises:
- validating the client with the agent manager; and
- establishing a communication connection between the agent and an applet executing on the client.
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48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein transmitting from the server to the client a first list of storage devices visible to the server comprises identifying storage devices visible to the server.
- 5 49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein identifying storage devices visible to the server comprises scanning a peripheral bus.
50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein initiating a process to download the firmware file to the at least one storage device on the
10 second list of storage devices comprises:
retrieving, from the received firmware file, a series of commands for downloading the firmware file to a storage device; and
executing the series of commands.
- 15 51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising downloading the firmware file in fixed-length increments contemporaneously to multiple storage devices.
52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising
20 locking the storage device during the firmware download process.
53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising verifying the firmware download.
- 25 54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein verifying the firmware download comprises:
retrieving a data field from the firmware file downloaded to the at least one storage device; and
comparing the retrieved data field to a corresponding data field in the
30 firmware file received from the client.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the agent monitors a storage device and reports a storage device status change to a client.